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Doctors rejected turning off Mandela life support



(FILES) Nelson Mandela
JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - Nelson Mandela's doctors have rejected the idea of turning off the ailing icon's life support unless he suffers massive organ failure, a close family friend told AFP Friday.

Denis Goldberg -- an anti-apartheid activist who has been Mandela's friend for more than half a century -- said the issue of turning off life support was discussed and ultimately dismissed.

"I was told the matter had

been raised and the doctors said they would only consider such a situation if there was a genuine state of organ failure," Goldberg said.

"Since that hasn't occurred they were quite prepared to go on stabilising him until he recovers."

The 80-year-old Goldberg was convicted along with Mandela in 1964 for their fight against white-minority rule.

He visited the former president in hospital on Monday.

A court document filed by a lawyer for Mandela's family nine days ago stated the 94-year-old was "assisted in breathing by a life support machine."

"The Mandela family have been advised by the medical practitioners that his life support machine should be switched off," the court filing read.

"Rather than prolonging his suffering, the Mandela family is exploring this option as a very real probability."

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The Latin Bombshell revisited: Maria Conchita Alonzo

The Aruba International Film Festival was proud to welcome Latin Grammy-nominated actress, singer and songwriter, Maria Conchita Alonzo, to their red carpet premieres this week. The Cuban born performer, who grew up in Venezuela from the time she was five, was on island for the screening of the documentary

"Femme: Women Healing the World," by French filmmaker Emmanuel Itier, in which she provided some pithy insights on the evolving role of women in world affairs and bringing about peace. "I interviewed Maria because like every other woman in the movie, she gives a great deal back to her community," explained Itier in choosing her as one of his subjects. "An example: she just came back from Honduras where she gave a free concert to poor girls to inspire them. So, beyond her screen and singing career, she is a humanitarian who tries to bring positivism to the table, and hope."

During her interactive dialog session with fans on Thursday afternoon, Maria Conchita was also quite candid and forthcoming, demonstrating a natural wit and congenial humor about her life experience and career milestones. She kept her audience quite well entertained for two hours, in two languages, with journalist Ricardo Pineda of Panorama newspaper out of Maracaibo, acting as moderator.

Maria's career began at a



me there is nothing more important in a person's life than their personality. No one can compete with that. "You will always find someone prettier than you, younger than you, with a better body, so forget about that, it is not so important in life." That is how I grew up, and that has worked for me. It is my personality that is what still keeps me out there. The contests did open doors for me to become an actress and a singer."

Maria also had a great talent for writing music, and remarked on the irony that while living in Venezuela, her

singing career took off with her English songs. She was then invited to California to record songs in Spanish, which became huge #1 hits among the Latin community in the U.S. What established her as an actress was her stint in Venezuelan telenovelas, which were in their heyday during the Eighties. "Telenovela are hugely popular in Venezuela, and the stars were even bigger than movie stars in Latin America. Our soap operas played around the world, translated and dubbed in Chinese, Turkish, you name it, but not the U.S. There were great actors and it was a great place to learn and develop as an actress."

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Parliament approves reduction in taxation of automobile number plates...

See pg 2

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Parliament approves reduction in taxation of automobile number plates

Electric vehicles will pay only Afl. 75.- per year



During a public meeting of Parliament, Minister of Finance, Ing. Mike de Meza, received unanimous support for his proposal to reduce taxes on automobile number plates. This change will definitely bring relief to many. On the other hand the measure is intended to promote the use of alternative energy products.

The government is promoting the island as a pioneer in the use of alternative energy and in that context they must include alternative fuels

for automobiles. With modern technology we now have more types of alternative fuels, such as Bio Diesel. There are also automobiles using both fuel and electricity, as well as those running completely on electricity.

Parliament approved a reduction in the number plate tax tariff for the more efficient vehicles which depend less on the traditional fuels. Automobiles using gasoline will continue to pay Afls 320 per year and for diesel the tariff will also remain at Afls.620 per year. The notable change is for those vehicles running on Bio Diesel, which are currently paying Afls.620 per year. In the change of tariff they will be levied only Afls.225 per year. Hybrid cars currently paying Afls.620 per year, will now be paying only Afls.150 per year. And Automobiles running completely on electricity and are currently paying Afl. 620 per year will be levied only Afls.75 per year!

This change is in keeping with the government's vision of making Aruba the example for the entire region in the use of alternative energy. This is a vision that is supported by Holland and the US. The reduction in the tax tariff for green products, such as inverter airconditioners, etc was the first step for the government. Now the reduction for automobile tax is yet another accomplishment in Aruba's quest to go completely Green.

International publicists invited for "Aruba I Do Experience" delighted with the Renaissance Private Island



Wedding Reception Beach

On special invitation of ATA a group of wedding publicists recently visited Aruba to explore and do a special coverage on Aruban wedding set-ups. The main goal of this trip was to give them the opportunity to discover and experience everything Aruba has to offer as a destination / location for a wedding ceremony and reception. During their visit they also explored the Private Island of Renaissance Aruba Resort.

Angela Hagedoorn, Event Service Manager together with Milayne Alberts, Wedding Coordinator and Randolph Geerman, Wedding Planner gave the publicists a tour where they had the opportunity to take pictures and

give life to their experience and coverage on the Private

Island of Renaissance Resort. Once there, they were welcomed with a 'mimosa' followed by an extended breakfast buffet prepared by in house chefs. The publicists also got the opportunity to feed the flamingos and where highly fascinated with the Private Island. Amongst those who visited Aruba where Engaged! with a publication rate of 60,000 magazines, Charlotte Magazine with a publication rate of 40,000 magazines, Atlanta Weddings with a publication rate of 60,000 magazines, Southern Bride with a publication rate of 30,000 magazines for the southern region, Colin Cowie Weddings, OnceWed.Com and MyWedding.com. Colin Cowie Weddings is the dedicated site for the famous American wedding planner who is a regular contributor for NBC Show and party planner for celebrities like Jennifer Aniston, Tom Cruise and Oprah Winfrey.

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Minister of Labor: Working overtime ought to be an exception rather than a rule

With the changes in the labor laws which took effect as of April 1st of this year, the government introduced modernization in our Labor Ordinance.

The objective of the Labor Ordinance is the application of flexibility for rules regarding working conditions with respect to working hours, breaks and festive days.

With respect to "overtime" it was decided to introduce a change in this and regulate the amount of overtime compensation during festive days, and breaks. This will take effect as of January 1st, 2014.

Previously an employee was entitled to overtime compensation up to a maximum of 200% (art. 22 Old Labor Ordinance).

Overtime ruling after April 1st, 2013 introduces different categories for overtime, which can reach a maximum of 250% (art.16 AV 2013).

This labor change entails that from the moment an employee works overtime; he is immediately entitled to 50% additional compensation on his salary. Depending on the day or hour on which the employee

puts in overtime, the employee could receive between 75%, 100% or 150% extra compensation on his salary. In the event an employee worked during their break, they have the right to 175% compensation on their salary.

In the case of a shift employee who works on festive days, the compensation for overtime could accumulate to a maximum of 250%.

The main reason for these changes in the Labor Law according to the Minister is to compensate the employee who made an extra effort to work during their break or on holidays.

But it is very important the Minister added, to bear in mind that working overtime ought not to be a rule, but rather an exception. In order to avoid an employer from requesting the same employee to work overtime continually, the government has increased the compensation percentage for overtime in certain cases.

According to the Minister, if an employee is happy where he works, he will be more productive and this will result in the success of the company and the employer.





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International publicists invited for "Aruba I Do Experience" ...

Continued on pg 3

Colin's unique perspective on weddings planning attracts influential brides-to-be nationally and boasts an impressive following of more than 137,200 Facebook fans, 20,458 Pinterest followers, 7,400 Twitter followers, and 4,500 Instagram followers.

OnceWed.com has received

praises from Good Morning America, The New York Times, the Wall Street Journal and NBC.com. OnceWed reaches more than 190,000 unique visitors and 4 million page views a month. The site boasts an impressive base of more than 47,000 Twitter followers, 18,600 Facebook fans

and 28,500 Pinterest followers.

MyWedding.com reaches 1.7 million uniquely visitor per month targeting affluent woman aged 25-35. The blog boasts more than 32,600 Facebook fans, 12,600 Twitter followers and 2,900 Pinterest followers.

The Renaissance Resort wedding team gave an explana-

tion of the different facilities they have to offer for an unforgettable wedding reception. The beach wedding setup was also explained. It was noticeable that the option of a ceremony on a Private Island combined with a on the beach reception was of great interest to the publicists. Renaissance Resort can make a couples

dream come true whether it's a full ceremony set-up, a full detailed party, organize a bachelor or bachelorette party, do Hair & make-up, before or after wedding massages at Okeanos Spa, offer Limo service or dinner rehearsals, it's all possible. For more information www.renaissancearubaweddings.com



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It was a spectacular, star-spangled feast for The Fourth at Laguna



cial.

This year, it was a classic Fourth of July feast, with holiday favorites on the grill punctuating their sumptuous selection of salads, peel-and-eat shrimp, a prime rib carving station, and amazing dessert table. Event the sweet treats had a red, white and blue treatment with crepes covered with strawberry flambé and whip cream. So did the free welcome drink, frozen Hurricanes, laced with red and blue liqueurs; it was a potent potion to whet patrons' appetites.

The executive staff of the Casa Del Mar Resort had to admit the holiday menu was hard to resist, providing a perfect venue for a congenial get-together among colleagues. The Chamizo family of Miami traveled to Aruba to share it will their expatriate sister Sylvia, who married a local and made a life in Aruba. All ages found something to like on the diverse holiday menu.

Singer Ricky Thomas regularly provides a medley of mellow music, and Laguna has some of the prettiest surroundings among hotel

restaurants. Patrons could choose from the air-conditioned dining room, but it is the terrace, with its sparkling pond filled with koi, that always proves a great favorite.

By Rosalie Klein



The Latin Bombshell revisited: Maria Conchita Alonzo... Continued from pg 1

A friend's invitation to join him at a Hollywood party resulted in her staying to pursue her acting career. Maria is one of a very small handful of Latin actresses who established themselves in the U.S. film industry, and it had its frustrations. "I don't mind playing a maid or a prostitute," she commented, "if in the next movie I get to play a doctor or something that is not a stereotype. In those days, there was not much variety to the parts offered to Hispanic women. I do believe, with a few others, like Sonia Braga, we helped to bring about the change that was needed, we fought for this."

Maria's Hollywood film career took off since her U.S. debut, cast opposite Robin Williams in "Moscow on the Hudson," playing his Italian love interest. "I was so excited, I was a big fan of his from 'Mork & Mindy.' I trained for the first audition, hiring a coach to teach me an Italian accent, and whenever I said something, Paul Mazursky practically fell on the floor laughing. My lines weren't really that funny, but he thought I was hysterical."

"They had Robin and I play off each other while deciding whether to give me the part, and we immediately got along and had a wonderful chemistry," she recalls. "Robin is the most humble and gentle actor, man and human being you can imagine. I think he is a genius in comedy; he is very shy, so the way he hides it is by being funny and out there."

This was her first real audition for a film, a process she revealed she absolutely hated. "Auditions are disgusting," Maria told the audience. "Most of the movies I have played in, it has been because they were offered to me. Really, I haven't had to audition much, after that, not more than twice a year, but still, I hate it. I might even not go for a part if I have to. It is something that shouldn't be in my mind, but it is."

"The thing about auditioning, is that an actor has to realize that it has nothing to do with your talent, it all depends on whether you are right for the part, have the right look. We may realize it, but we still feel as if it is about our acting, even though we know it isn't." She recalled how she became so close to being a Bond Girl, but was going through a phase of wishing to downplay the "Sexy Latin Bombshell" image, which was



Maria with with Femme Director and Producer Emmanuel Itier

exactly what the producers were looking for. In her life generally, and while attending prospective part interviews, "I was dressing like a hippy, in long baggy dresses, and this was not what they wanted to see, and it cost me the part." She said in Hollywood, you always have to think about keeping up the image.

Maria revealed she hated when another actress dubs over her voice in Spanish when her English films play in Latin America, and would happily do it. When asked who was the best kisser in all her love scenes, she admitted, "I forgot...but I did teach Arnold Schwarzenegger to kiss. (as his co-star in 'The Running Man') At first he was terrible; so uptight. I said 'Arnold, what is my name?' and he answered 'Maria.' And then I asked, 'What is your wife's name?' Again, he said, 'Maria.' 'So,' I told him, 'just pretend you are kissing your wife and kiss me like you are kissing her.' Then he turned out to be a pretty good kisser." She considers herself very fortunate to not have had to work or do a love scene with someone she truly disliked. "I have heard horrible stories-people that stink...really! Others who are very 'macho' and treat you rudely...I have been lucky. I have done about 50


movies, and I have loved doing all of them."

After many amusing and informative anecdotes and insights about her long career, she advised young aspiring actors and actresses in the audience to not give up or be afraid to "put yourselves out there. And don't set yourselves time limits...I will get a movie part by such and such a date, or give up." Don't give up, don't put pressure on yourselves that way, you will get very nervous." She cited her recently completed newest project, "Return to Babylon," in which she plays Lupe Velez, and produced, as an example. "It took us seven years to complete this film, and it is a silent film in black and white. When 'The Artist' won an Oscar a couple of years ago, we were finally able to get the interest and backing we needed to see it made."

"Also, a strong family bond is important. My film 'Return to Babylon,' is about how Hollywood can destroy you if you don't have these values of family to sustain you. Many of the characters, real-life figures of the silent era and the 40's and 50's, were highly successful at one point, but their lives end tragically; mine committed suicide. The Hollywood power can do that to you, if you don't have a strong, family-oriented environment growing up. Hollywood is very hard. It can make you feel as if you aren't worth anything, if you allow them to."

Despite battling a debilitating cold, Maria delivered a vivacious, animated two hours about her long career punctuated with "behind the scenes" anecdotes about Hollywood and the many personalities she has known and worked with. Afterwards, she graciously posed for photos with the audience.

By Rosalie Klein



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Mother of slain Florida teen testifies as case closes

MIAMI (AFP) - The mother of Trayvon Martin testified that her son could be heard screaming in a harrowing 911 call as prosecutors in the racially charged trial in Florida wrapped up their case on Friday.

Testifying in the murder trial of neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman, Sybrina Fulton told the court the screams heard on the recorded call to police were those of her unarmed

17-year-old son.

Zimmerman is accused of murder in the shooting death of the African-American teenager in February 26 last year.

The 29-year-old denies the charge, claiming he shot Martin in self-defense after the teen wrestled him to the ground and pounded his head against the sidewalk.

The identity of the person screaming for help on the 911 call has become a pivotal

piece of evidence in the case, which has garnered widespread coverage in the US.

Prosecutors say the screams belong to Martin, supporting their case that Zimmerman was the aggressor in the incident.

Defense attorneys have argued however that it is Zimmerman's cries who are heard, backing his claim that he acted in self-defense.

Martin's mother however told jurors on Friday she was

in no doubt that it was her son's screams on the tape.

Fulton was played the tape of the call and asked if she recognized the voice on Friday.

Asked who she thought it was, she replied: "Trayvon Benjamin Martin."

The slain youth's older brother, Jahvaris Fulton, 22, also said he was certain that the person shouting was Trayvon.

Defense attorney Mark O'Mara however replayed a

statement tape during a deposition in which Fulton said he was not entirely sure who was yelling.

"I guess I didn't want to believe that it was him, that's why during that interview I said I wasn't sure," Fulton said, when asked about his earlier statement.

"Listening to it was clouded by shock and denial and sadness."

Martin had been visiting a family friend in the neighborhood and was coming back from a convenience store just before his altercation with Zimmerman.

Zimmerman has denied any racial motive in the killing, saying he shot Martin only because he feared his life was in danger.

Zimmerman said he phoned police when he saw Martin walking in a hooded sweatshirt in a gated community in Sanford, Florida which had seen a string of recent robberies.

He told police that he found Martin's behavior suspicious, and followed the youth even though he had been instructed not to do so by authorities.

The trial has centered in part on Florida's controversial "Stand Your Ground" law, which permits a shooter to use deadly force if he believes that his life is at risk.

Zimmerman has said in the past that he knew nothing about the law when he shot Martin, but one witness, corporal Alexis Carter, testified that he taught Zimmerman about the law at Seminole State College.

Zimmerman was studying criminal justice courses in hopes of becoming a police officer one day. Legal experts said the testimony undermines his credibility.

"The prosecution can say to jurors you can't believe him (Zimmerman)," legal analyst Jack Ford told CBS television.

After prosecutors wrapped up their case, defense attorney Mark O'Mara made a lengthy submission before the trial judge for the case to be dismissed at the halfway stage.

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Mexico volcano ash disrupts US flights for second day

MEXICO CITY (AFP) - Four US airlines canceled at least 10 flights to and from Mexico City's airport Friday after the Popocatepetl volcano spewed more ash, a day after hundreds of air passengers were stranded for the same reason, an airport spokesman said.

The spokesman said United Airlines, Delta Airlines, Alaska Airlines and Air-Tran voluntarily scrapped the flights as a precaution, but the airport was otherwise operating normally.

United canceled its flights to and from Los Angeles and the Texas city of Houston, but there was no immediate information about the other airlines or the number of new passengers affected, the spokesman said.

The new cancellations came one day after six US airlines called off 60 flights due to volcanic ash, leaving some

600 people waiting for new flights home on Friday morning, he said.

In its latest bulletin, the National Disaster Prevention Center said the 5,452-meter (17,887-foot) high volcano had blown a 1.5 kilometer (one mile) high column of ash that was heading west-northwest and produced low-intensity tremors in the last 24 hours.

Volcanic activity at the snow-capped Popocatepetl, located 65 kilometers (40 miles) southeast of the capital, has intensified since May, prompting authorities to raise the alert level to "yellow phase 3" for 27 days, just short of evacuation orders.

The disaster prevention center advised people living around the volcano to wear long sleeves and use masks or cover their mouths and noses with a cloth.

Dutch economist charged with stalking Citigroup exec

NEW YORK CITY (AFP) - A prominent Dutch economist appeared in court in New York on Friday charged with harassing the chief economist of US banking giant Citigroup.

Heleen Mees, 44, a former economics professor at New York University, is accused of bombarding Citigroup executive Willem Buiter, 63, with at least 1,000 emails during a two-year period between 2011 and this year.

Many of the messages were sexually explicit while others were sent to Buiter and his wife and two children.

"Hope your plane falls out of the sky," Mees is alleged to have written in one message cited in court documents.

"Shall we adopt a child?", "What can I do to make it right?" Mees wrote in other

messages.

One message included images of Mees masturbating, court records showed -- one of many emails which were sexually explicit.

US media reports have said Mees and Buiter had been lovers before ending their relationship.

The Dutch-born Buiter sent a cease and desist letter to Mees in February this year, but the messages continued, including one image of a dead bird sent in May.

Mees was arrested on Monday and charged with stalking and aggravated harassment. She was briefly imprisoned on Rikers Island before posting bail for \$5,000.

Mees has been ordered to appear in court again on August 19.

Doctors rejected turning off Mandela life support

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The document - which was designed to press a court to urgently settle a family row over the remains of Mandela's children -- also stated that Mandela was "in a permanent vegetative state."

South Africa's presidency has stated that is not now the case, but has refused to give further details of his condition, citing the need to respect Mandela's privacy.

On the day the document was drafted, President Jacob Zuma abruptly cancelled a trip to Mozambique to confer with Mandela's doctors amid fears the 94-year-old may be close to the end.

Zuma, Mandela family members and his close friends have since reported his condition has improved.

South African presidential spokesman Mac Maharaj told

AFP on Friday that Zuma's office "had not been party" to the court material and would not speculate on its content.

"We did not file any document and we are not saying that it's true or not true," he said.

Earlier Goldberg said Mandela was "clearly a very ill man, but he was conscious and he tried to move his mouth and eyes when I talked to him."

Deadly clashes as Egypt Islamists protest army coup

CAIRO (AFP) - Supporters of Egypt's ousted Islamist president Mohamed Morsi took to the streets in their tens of thousands Friday, defying the army that deposed him and triggering violence that killed at least 14 people nationwide.

In the restive north of the Sinai peninsula, armed supporters of Morsi stormed the provincial headquarters in the

town of El-Arish after a gunfight and raised the black banner of Al-Qaeda-inspired Islamist militants, an AFP correspondent said.

In Cairo's iconic Tahrir Square, at least two people were killed when Morsi supporters traded fire with his opponents, state television reported.

The clashes subsided when the army separated the protesters using armoured vehicles.

"We are not taking sides. Our mission is to secure the lives of protesters," military spokesman Colonel Ahmed Ali told AFP.

Four protesters were killed outside the Republican Guard headquarters after breaking away from a pro-Morsi demonstration, the official MENA news agency reported.

The bodies of two people were covered with sheets, said an AFP correspondent, adding

that another protester was shot in the head.

Soldiers had warned a protester with a picture of the ousted president not to approach their barbed wire cordon.

They opened fire when he ignored them, and shots were then heard from both sides, an AFP reporter said.

The Islamists accuse the military of conducting a brazen coup against Morsi, Egypt's first democratically elected president, after millions called for his ouster on the June 30 anniversary of his first turbulent year in power.

Friday's violence came as the supreme guide of Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood, Mohammed Badie, vowed that members of the Islamist movement would stay on the streets in their millions until his presidency is restored.

Snowden makes six new asylum requests: WikiLeaks

LONDON (AFP) - US intelligence leaker Edward Snowden has applied to another six countries for asylum, WikiLeaks said Friday on its Twitter feed.

The 30-year-old is believed to be holed up at a Moscow airport looking for a country that will give him safe haven. Snowden has previously asked 21 countries for asylum.

"Edward Snowden has applied to another six countries for asylum," said the tweet from anti-secrecy website WikiLeaks, which is helping Snowden and has one of its staffers with him in Moscow.

"They will not be named at this time due to attempted US interference."

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International News

Excitement in Russia as ex-spy offers marriage to Snowden

MOSCOW (AFP) - Russian ex-spy Anna Chapman has proposed marriage to US intelligence leaker Edward Snowden, who is stuck without documents in a Moscow airport, in an increasingly bizarre turn of events that unleashed excitement in Russia.

"Snowden, will you marry me?!" the undercover spy turned media celebrity asked the world's most famous refugee on Twitter late Wednesday.

In a separate tongue-in-cheek tweet, she asked Snowden's former employer, the National Security Agency: "@nsa will you look after our children?"

Snowden arrived in Moscow from Hong Kong on June 23 and has spent nearly two weeks in legal limbo in an airport transit zone.

Chapman was deported from the United States in 2010 along with nine other Russian spies in a major swap with Washington.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov told AFP on Friday he was unaware if Chapman's proposal was serious and declined to comment further, noting he was not Chapman's "legal representative".

On a more serious note, a lawyer took to the airwaves to discuss the possible union, while the Interfax news agency, citing a source familiar with the situation, said on Friday Snowden's legal status would change if he tied the knot with the Russian.

"In this case, Snowden would have legal grounds to request Russian citizenship and therefore receive state protection from his new country of residence," the source was quoted as saying.

But the consular service at Sheremetyevo Airport where Snowden has been marooned said it did not legalise marriages.

However comical, Chapman's proposal brings into focus the increasingly absurd diplomatic quagmire presented by Snowden's airport stay.

The 30-year-old, who is seeking to evade US justice for leaking details about a vast US electronic surveillance programme, has been unable to leave Moscow after Washington revoked his passport.



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Fireworks mishap in California leaves 28 injured

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A malfunction at a fireworks display in California to celebrate American independence day sent exploding shells showering into a crowd of several thousand, injuring 28 people, police said.

Those injured in the mishap in Simi Valley near Los Angeles ranged in age from eight to 78, and four were left in serious condition, Simi Valley police spokesman Blair Summey told AFP.

The July 4 fireworks show at a park before a crowd of 8,000 to 10,000 people had just started when there was what Summey called an ignition malfunction.

"Some of the shells went into the crowd," he said.

TV footage showed a bright, colorful explosion sending sparks showering down on people watching the show.

Simi Valley is about 25 miles (40 kilometers) west of Los Angeles.



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Health & Living

H1N1 flu outbreak in northern Chile kills 11

SANTIAGO (AFP) - At least 11 people have been killed in an outbreak of H1N1 flu virus in northern Chile, where the rate of infection is more than six times higher than the rest of the country, authorities said Thursday.

"The average across the country is 24 patients per 100,000 residents, but in Tarapaca, in the past week, the rate was 148 patients per 100,000 residents," Medical Association president Enrique Paris said.

Citing fears of aggravating the outbreak, Paris recom-

mended postponing or cancelling the upcoming Fiesta de la Tirana, a religious celebration planned for July 15-17 where 200,000 people are expected.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Jaime Manalich announced he will travel Friday to the region 1,900 kilometers (1,180 miles) north of Santiago near the border with Bolivia.

The minister also said some 115,000 vaccines will be sent to immunize the population, which numbers around 300,000.

Cousin marriage' doubles gene risk for babies: study

PARIS (AFP) - First cousins who marry run twice the risk of having a child with genetic abnormalities, according to the findings of a study in the English city of Bradford, published Friday in The Lancet.

The city, which has a high proportion of South Asian immigrants and their descendants among its population, served as a microcosm for examining the risk of blood relative couplings.

About 37 percent of marriages among people of Pakistani origin in the study involved first cousins, compared to less than one percent of "British unions", said the researchers.

University of Leeds investigator Eamonn Sheridan led a team that pored over data from the "Born in Bradford" study, which tracks the health of 13,500 babies born at the city's main hospital between 2007 and 2011.

Out of 11,396 babies for

whom family details were known, 18 percent were the offspring of first-cousin unions, mainly among people of Pakistan heritage.

A total of 386 babies -- three percent -- were born with anomalies ranging from problems in the nervous, respiratory and digestive systems, to urinary and genital defects and cleft palates.

This Bradford rate was nearly twice the national average, said the study.

Other factors blamed for genetic flaws, such as alcohol consumption, smoking and social deprivation, can be ruled out, it said.

"Thirty-one percent of all anomalies in children of Pakistani origin could be attributed to consanguinity" or marriage between first cousins, said the study.

The authors say theirs was the first study to delve into the causes of congenital abnormalities in a broad population.

Philippines plans to lift millions out of poverty



MANILA-(AFP) - The Philippines said Friday it was aiming to lift more than 10 million people out of poverty in less than two years, and make an enduring impact on lessening one of Asia's worst rich-poor divides.

The government has set a target of cutting the number of people living in poverty to 16.6 percent by the end of 2015, down from 27.9 percent last year, Socio-Economic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan said.

"It's a big challenge. We just don't have the luxury of time and the luxury of resources to waste," Balisacan told reporters.

The ambitious goal is set

ahead of when Aquino is required to stand down in mid-2016 after a six-year term.

It comes after stunning economic growth, credit rating upgrades and record stock market highs in the first half of Aquino's term failed to make a dent on crushing poverty.

Even though the Philippines had the fastest growth rate in Asia of 7.8 percent in the first quarter of this year, the unemployment rate rose to a three-year-high of 7.5 percent in April.

The number of people living in poverty -- defined as living on 62 US cents a day or less -- had also largely remained the same.

Last year 27.9 percent of the country was classified as living in poverty compared to 28.8 and 28.6 percent in 2006 and 2009 respectively.

That means more than 25 million currently live in poverty.

The Philippines has long had one of the biggest rich-poor divides in Asia, with a

remarkably small number of families dominating politics and business.

While the Aquino administration has always aimed to create more inclusive growth, Balisacan said the government was "recalibrating" after the recent economic performance failed to make a big impact on poverty.

"We are learning the lesson of the last three years," he said.

The economy remains largely reliant on services and consumption, fuelled by the huge remittances of almost 10 million Filipinos working overseas.

Balisacan said that, as part of the remodelling efforts, the government would sharply increase spending on infrastructure to create immediate jobs and make areas more attractive for investment.

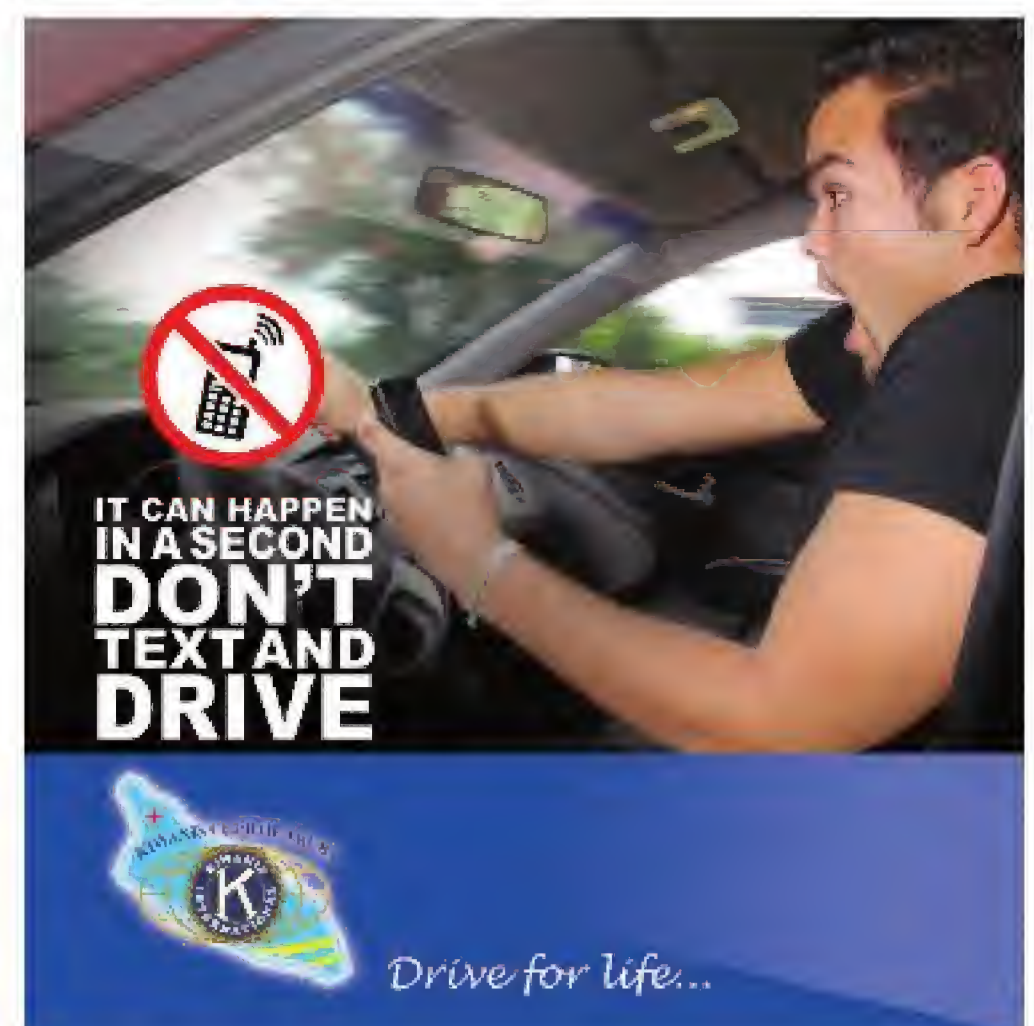
The government is specifically targeting ports, airports and roads.

Overall spending on infrastructure will rise from the equivalent of 2.5 percent of the Philippines' economy in 2012 to five percent by 2016, according to Balisacan.

He said the government would also continue to ramp up spending on social services.

One key focus is a "conditional cash-transfer" scheme where the country's poorest families are given money if various health and education requirements are met, such as keeping children in school.

He said the government was maintaining its forecast of 6.0-7.0 percent economic growth this year, rising to 7.0-8.0 percent in 2015.



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Sci-Tech Scientists create 'human liver' from stem cells

PARIS (AFP) - Scientists in Japan said this week they had grown human liver tissue from stem cells in a first that holds promise for alleviating the critical shortage of donor organs.

Creating lab-grown tissue to replenish organs damaged by accident or disease is a Holy Grail for the pioneering field of research into the premature cells known as stem cells.

Now Takanori Takebe of the Yokohama City University

Graduate School of Medicine and a team report in the journal Nature that they grew tissue "resembling the (human) adult liver" in a lab mouse.

They first created induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells which they mixed with other cell types and coaxed into "liver buds" -- the precursor clusters that develop into a liver.

The buds, each about five millimetres (0.2 inches) big,

were then transplanted onto a mouse brain, where they were observed transforming into a "functional human liver" complete with blood vessels, the scientists wrote.

The technique has yet to be tested in humans, but serves as an important proof of concept, it added.

Stem cells are infant cells that can develop into any part of the body.

Until a few years ago, when

iPS cells were created, the only way to obtain stem cells was to harvest them from human embryos.

This is controversial because it requires the destruction of the embryo, a process to which religious conservatives and others object.

iPS cells are easily-obtainable mature cells that are "re-programmed" into a versatile, primitive state from where they can develop into any kind

of cell in the body.

Takebe told a press conference ahead of the report's release that the man-made liver was observed through a replacement glass skull that was fitted around the mouse's brain.

The liver developed blood vessels which fused with those of the animal.

It also performed certain human-specific liver functions -- producing proteins and processing specific drugs.

Scientists commenting on the research described it as promising.

Chris Mason of University College London said the buds may be useful for drug testing in the lab, which is currently restricted by the limited availability of liver cells from human cadavers.

Takebe said the method may also work in organs like the pancreas, kidneys or lungs, but it would be another 10 years before trials are done in humans.

One key requirement would be to shrink the "buds" to a much smaller size so they can be injected into the bloodstream and taken up by the body internally, he said.

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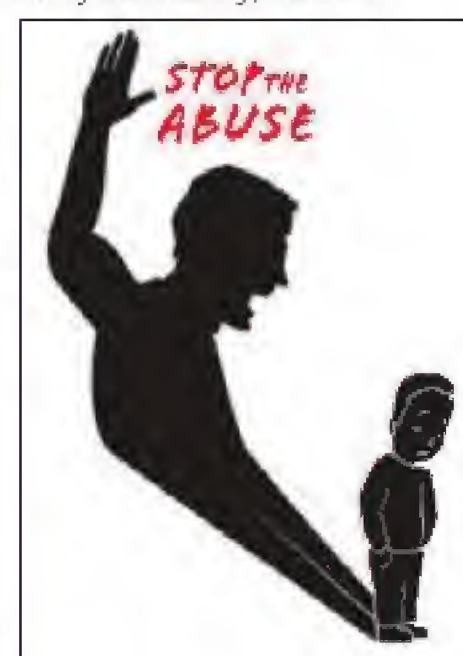
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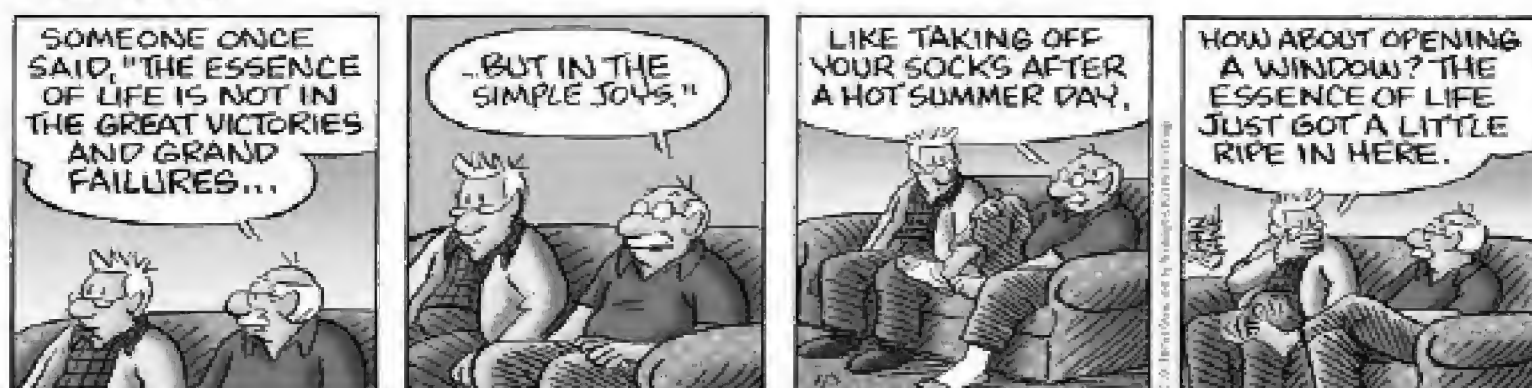
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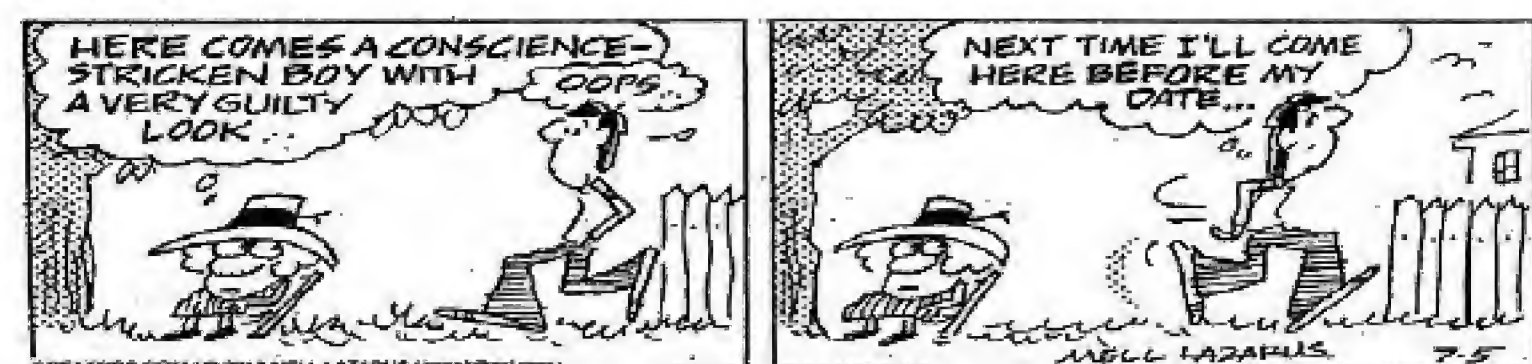


COMICS

PICKLES



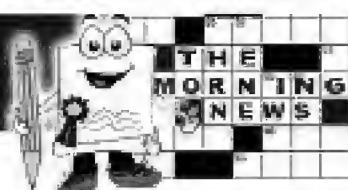
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CALVIN and HOBBS



CROSSWORD



CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Took nourishment
4. Vegetable fuel
8. Strive
11. Suffix for a doctrine
12. Spaghetti sauce brand
13. Neaten
14. Renovator
16. Orchestra instrument
17. Rustic stopover
18. Females' opposites
20. Window curtains
23. Single unit
24. Feel sick
25. Deep blue
29. Hangman's knots
33. Not so tight
34. Harmonize
35. Co. abbr.
36. Roman 54
37. Party with piñatas
40. Actor Cornel
42. Verb ending
43. Yard ____
44. Traitor
49. Pottery tool
50. Impersonator
51. Coolidge's

nickname

52. "Baby ____ You"
53. Endure
54. Lisper's problem letter

DOWN

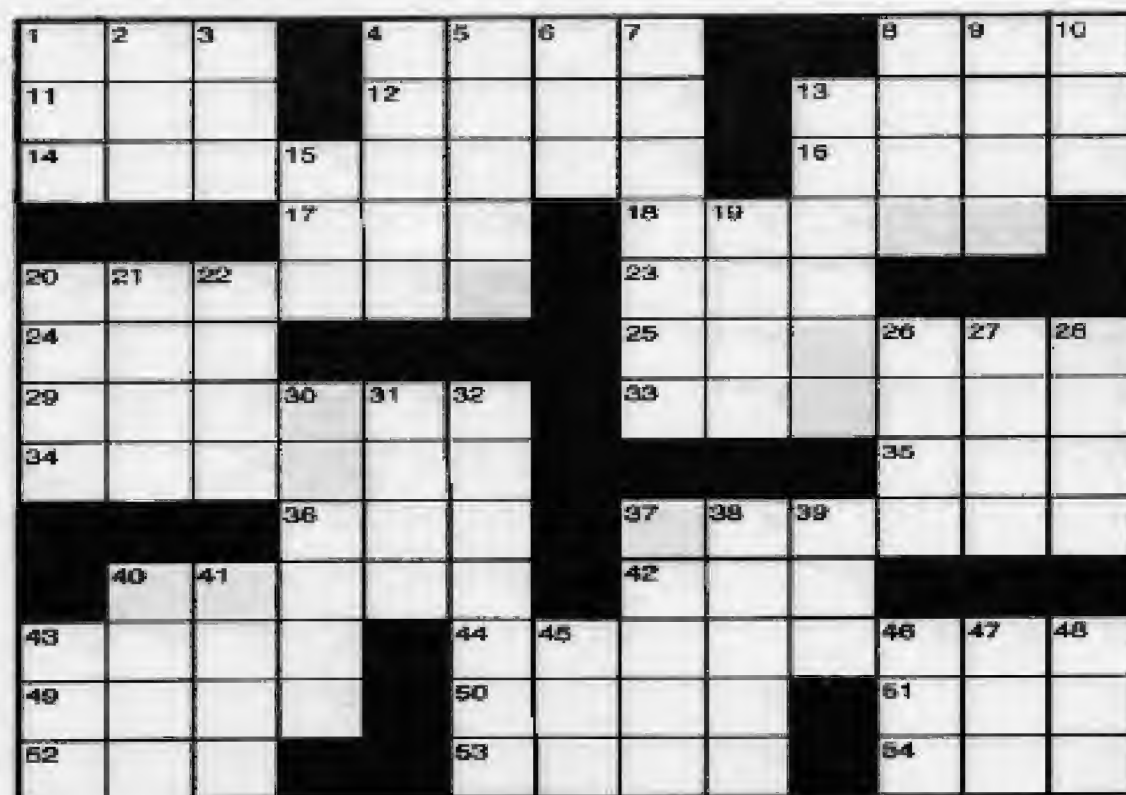
1. Ventilate
2. Mao ____ -tung
3. "Oz" aunt and others
4. Disposed (to)
5. Gains
6. Birthday number
7. Confusion
8. General feeling, slangily

9. Wedding vows (2 wds.)

10. Needle feature
13. Spanish city
15. Helpful hint
19. ____ Domini
20. Actress Wynter
21. Outbreak
22. Many (2 wds.)
26. Wife of Osiris
27. Mannerly man
28. Killer whale
30. Sulky
31. Author Bagnold
32. At least three
37. Penalties
38. Inactive
39. Poached item

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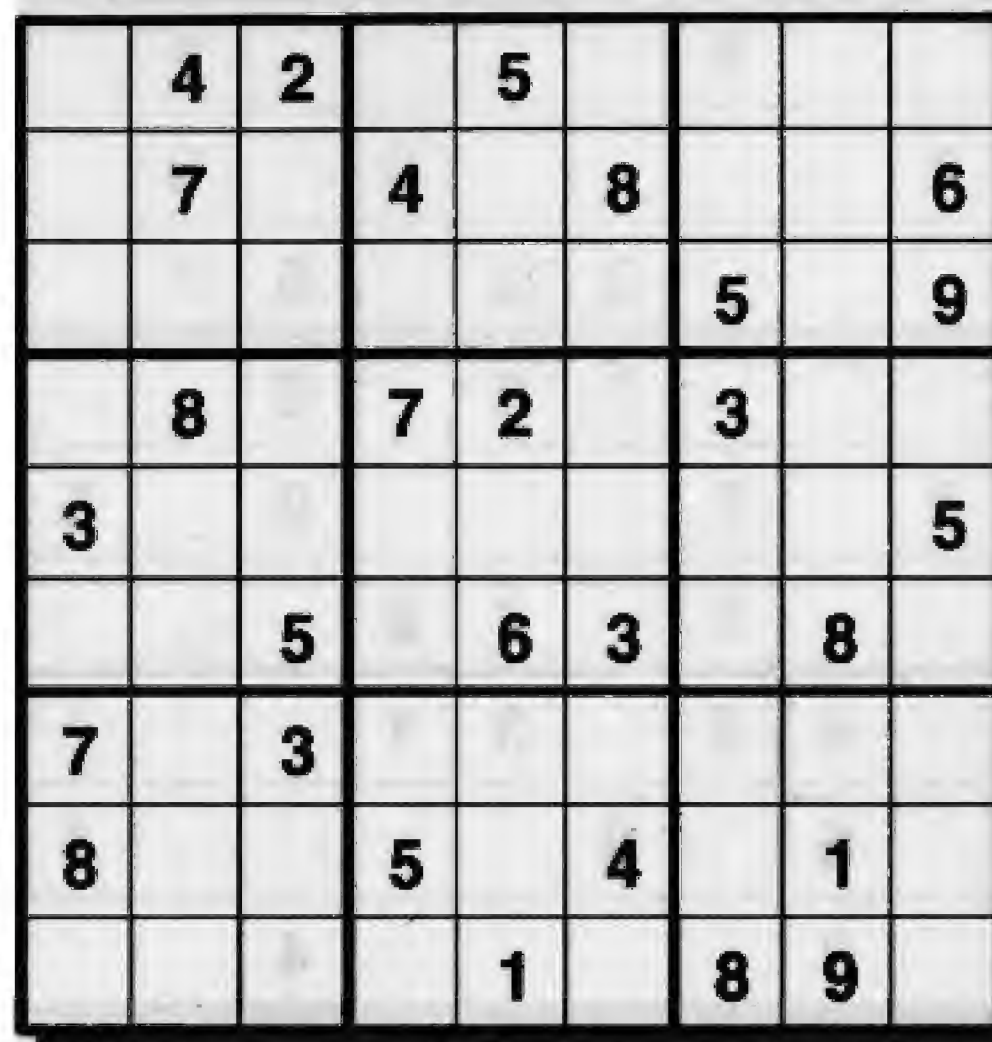
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

6	8	9	4	1	5	3	2	7
2	1	7	5	8	6	9	4	3
5	3	8	6	2	4	1	7	9
4	8	7	3	9	1	5	2	6
3	2	1	7	5	8	6	4	9
1	9	5	2	4	6	3	7	8
8	7	3	5	1	9	2	4	6
9	5	2	8	6	1	4	3	7
7	4	1	9	3	2	7	8	5

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.



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US regulators approve SoftBank takeover of Sprint



NEW YORK CITY (AFP) - US regulators on Friday approved the \$21.6 billion takeover of mobile carrier Sprint by Japan's SoftBank, a deal with the potential to shake up the American wireless market.

SoftBank had targeted Sprint as a way to gain entry into the hot US telecom market. But the Japanese company's efforts ran into competition from Dish Network, which forced SoftBank to increase its offer by \$1.6 billion from the original \$20 billion proposal.

The deal is the largest overseas acquisition ever by a Japanese firm, though Sprint stockholders will retain a 22 percent stake.

"Today is a good day for all Americans who use mobile broadband services," said act-

ing Federal Communications chair Mignon Clyburn, who added that the deal "would serve the public interest."

FCC approval was the last major hurdle following a hard-fought acquisition battle, and allows SoftBank to take a 78 percent stake in Sprint.

The US regulator also approved a separate deal that allows Sprint to take full control of the wireless broadband provider Clearwire, giving it more spectrum to compete against bigger carriers such as AT&T and Verizon.

Clyburn said the deals would lead to increased investment in Sprint's and Clearwire's networks and would likely "accelerate deployment of mobile broadband services and enhance competition in the mobile marketplace, promoting customer choice, innovation and lower prices."

The SoftBank deal received clearance from US national security officials in May under the condition of the appointment of an independent member to the Sprint board of directors to serve as security director.

The director, who must be approved by US authorities, would oversee national security matters and serve as a point of contact for US agencies

FINANCE

Commodities hit by strong dollar; oil soars on Egypt

LONDON (AFP) - Commodity prices tumbled on Friday as the dollar firmed in response to better-than-expected US jobs data and expectations of low European interest rates for some time yet.

Many raw materials managed to still rise over the week, however, and oil futures soared on unrest in Egypt.

The United States added a better-than-expected 195,000 jobs in June, while job growth in prior months was revised higher, official data revealed on Friday.

Analysts, whose consensus forecast had been for a gain of 166,000 jobs, said the June figures signalled that the Federal Reserve could begin scaling down its \$35-billion-a-month bond-buying scheme sooner rather than later.

Friday's jobs data supported the dollar, which makes commodities priced in the US unit more expensive for buyers holding weaker currencies, denting demand for raw materials such as metals and crude oil.

"Copper prices and gold prices have been absolutely crushed today in the wake of the resurgent US dollar," said Michael Hewson, senior analyst at CMC Markets trading group.

OIL: Global crude oil prices rose sharply this week on the back of mounting tensions in Egypt, but gains were tempered by renewed fears that the US Fed may soon end its quantitative easing (QE) stimulus policy.

Markets are pricing in the risk of prolonged unrest in Egypt after its army overthrew and detained Egyptian president Mohamed Morsi.

The country's chief justice Adly Mansour was sworn in as interim president Thursday as the army rounded up the leadership of Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood.

While not a major crude exporter, Egypt is home to key oil choke points such as the Suez Canal and the Sumed Pipeline.

The same day, New York crude hit \$103.13 a barrel -- the highest level since May 2012.

Brent reached a three-month peak at \$107.58 a barrel.

Oil traders also digested the upbeat non-farm payrolls data in the United States, which is the world's biggest economy and consumer of oil.

By Friday on London's Intercontinental Exchange, Brent North Sea crude for delivery in August jumped to \$107.35 a barrel from \$102.88 a week earlier.

PRECIOUS METALS: Gold managed a slight gain over the week despite prices tumbling on Friday as the US jobs data firmed the dollar.

Gold futures had the previous week tumbled close to a three-year low under \$1,200 an ounce, hit by receding inflation fears, upbeat US data, a strong dollar and expectations of an end to the Federal Reserve's QE stimulus.

By late Friday on the London Bullion Market, the price of gold gained to \$1,212.75 an ounce from \$1,192 a week earlier.

Silver grew to \$19.32 an ounce from \$18.86.

Brazil announces \$6.65 bn spending cut

BRASÍLIA (AFP) - Brazil said Friday it will immediately cut government spending by \$6.65 billion to balance the budget and achieve the goal of a primary fiscal surplus of 2.3 percent of GDP.

"Initially, the cut will amount to \$15 billion reais (\$6.65 billion at the current exchange rate), but we will see during the year if new cuts are needed," Finance Minister Guido Mantega told Globo tel-

evision.

The announcement was meant to reassure financial markets by signaling that Brasilia can maintain fiscal discipline.

"The important thing is to meet the target of 2.3 percent. This target will be met whatever the cost," Mantega said.

The fiscal surplus corresponds to savings in public spending aimed at paying interest on the debt.

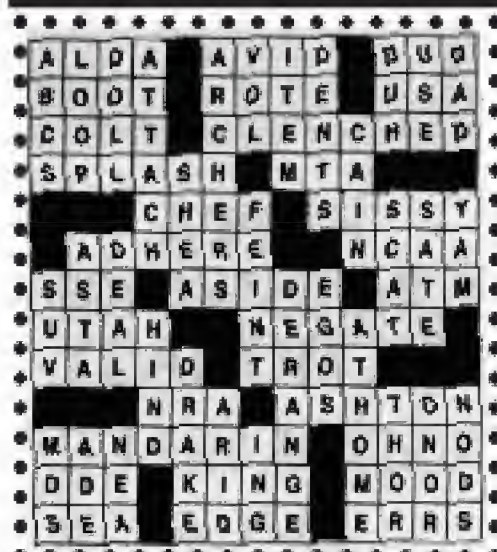
The cuts will be outlined in detail next week, said Mantega, who added that they will not affect "operating costs, investment and the government's social programs."

Brazil, which has seen two years of weak economic growth and rising inflation, was rocked by weeks of mass protests last month as citizens demanded better public services and an end to rampant corruption.



CHANGU NARYAN: Nepalese farmers plant rice in a paddy field in Changu Naryan village on the outskirts of Kathmandu on July 5, 2013. Nepal's rice planting season began with the arrival of the monsoon. Over 80 percent of Nepal's 27 million population depends upon agriculture and paddy is the major crop in the Himalayan nation

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Mother-to-be Kate faces Diana comparisons



LONDON (AFP) - As Prince William's wife Catherine prepares to give birth to a new heir to the throne, she faces renewed comparisons with her late mother-in-law, Princess Diana, whom she never met.

The former Kate Middleton only met her prince four years after Diana's untimely death, but William gave her his mother's sapphire ring on their engagement, saying "it was right to put the two together".

Despite the popularity of the young royals, Catherine, 31, has at times been compared unfavourably to the late princess, who seduced the public with her outspokenness and glamour.

One columnist even called her "Diana lite".

Diana's human touch made her a potent symbol; she was described as the "people's princess" and said she wanted to be "queen of people's hearts".

Like her, Catherine, whose title is Duchess of Cambridge, pays informal visits to sick children and backs addiction charities; like Diana, she is a fashion trendsetter whose choices of dress often prompt a rush on stores.

But the duchess has so far

opted for a far quieter public persona. When she issued a charity broadcast in April, celebrity magazine OK! -- exaggerating just a little -- urged readers to "hear Kate Middleton speak for the first time!"

Both women have endured one of the biggest challenges of being a modern royal: constant scrutiny from the press, including feverish speculation about possible pregnancies.

Kate's circumspection in part reflects lessons the establishment learned from Diana's life, and her death aged 36 in a high-speed Paris car crash, pursued by photographers.

The family are said to be determined to avoid any repeat of her very public struggles, which included a divorce from William's father Prince Charles played out in the glare of the media.

But there is one part of Diana's life the young couple are keen to emulate: her close relationship with her two children, defying royal tradition.

Diana's former private secretary, Patrick Jephson, told AFP that she "certainly did break the mould in the sense that she took William on tour, she made sure that... she was able to get home in time to put (her children) to bed".

He recalled that "if we were overseas (she ensured) that she was able to get home in the right time zone to speak to them on the phone..."

"They were always with her in her heart wherever she was. And I daresay (with Catherine) it will be the same."

Catherine will have her baby at St Mary's hospital in

London, where Diana had William in 1982, in what was then a radical choice not to give birth in a royal residence.

The family will live in a 21-room apartment in Diana's old home, Kensington Palace -- which is undergoing a £1 million (\$1.5 million, 1.2-million-euro) refit -- where Catherine will add to her challenges that of parenting the third-in-line to the throne.

Given Catherine and William's eight-year courtship, they seem unlikely to face the high-profile discord that plagued Diana's marriage as her sons William and Harry grew up.

Catherine was 28 when Prince William proposed in 2010, and was a "commoner", which would have ruled out their marriage a generation earlier.

Diana was just 19 when she became engaged in 1981 to Charles, who was 13 years older and on the hunt for an aristocratic bride deemed suitable by his relatives.

Diana's parents were a viscount and viscountess who divorced bitterly when she was eight; Catherine's met working for an airline, started a party accessories business together, and remain happily married.

Diana, besieged by the media, also made use of it: in candid interviews, she put across her side of the divorce and her tough relationship with the royal family, which she called "the firm".

Catherine looks set to steer a different course, and has joined a "firm" that has lost at least some of its stuffiness.

And despite her reserved exterior, there are glimpses of a sparky character: when a university friend said she was lucky to be going out with Prince William, she is said to have replied: "He's lucky to have me."

92-year-old Iraqi weds woman seven decades junior



SAMARRA (AFP) - A 92-year-old Iraqi farmer married a woman 70 years his junior in a village north of Baghdad, he said Friday, voicing happiness at getting hitched alongside two teenage grandchildren who also tied the knot.

Musali Mohammed al-Mujamaie married 22-year-old Muna Mukhlif al-Juburi on Thursday evening, three years after the death of his first wife of 58 years, with whom he raised 16 children in his home village of Gubban, which lies just south of the central Iraqi city of Samarra.

"I am so happy to get married with my grandsons," Mujamaie told AFP after the ceremony. "I feel like a 20-year-old!"

Mujamaie said the marriage of his two grandsons, aged 16 and 17, was repeatedly delayed while his own wedding was being arranged, so that the three could tie the knot on the same day.

The wedding carried on for four hours, with musical and dance performances and celebratory gunfire, and was attended by local tribal and religious leaders.



PAMPLONA (AFP) - Activists of the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and Anima Naturalis pro-animal groups stand in coffins that represent the 48 bulls that will be killed during the San Fermin festivities in the Northern Spanish city of Pamplona on July 5, 2013 during an anti-bullfighting protest. The San Fermin festival is a symbol of Spanish culture that attracts thousands of tourists to watch the bull runs despite heavy condemnation from animal rights groups.

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Aruba's most successful developers of secure, superior communities for both the permanent and part time resident market, will soon break ground on what they consider their most exclusive project to date. Known for 16 years of unmatched quality and service, the Cas Bon people are proud to unveil their new pet

project: O Condominiums. This is the same company which developed the innovative Gold Coast Villas community in Malmok.

Renowned for reliable construction, developers of O Condominiums consider the boutique community will be the "jewel in the crown" of the nine projects they have successfully completed and

maintain. It is only three stories and twenty luxurious units, of which 14 will be oceanfront, the remainder, ocean view. Sizes range from one bedroom condominiums with a bath and a half to three-bedrooms, each bedroom with its own bath, and an additional guest half/bath. The designs include a family entertainment room that will

be specially fitted with electronic and Internet connections and outlets enabling a state-of-the-art-home theater. An important aspect of this singular facility is owners have various options to customize kitchens and fixtures to their particular tastes and standards.

Each apartment sports an extremely spacious 35 square meter covered terrace overlooking the sea. Windows will be double-paned and doors have weather stripping to insure less cost on air-conditioning, which is integrated into construction. Homeowners will have input into the finishing they prefer in the kitchen and other rooms, to customize your condominium to your taste. Public amenities will include an elegant pool deck, concierge

services, lounge area, BBQ station, fitness room, assigned parking, additional outside storage for bicycles and personal items, and 24-hour security. A quiet, secluded section of Eagle beach is only a few steps from the front door.

O Condominiums officially opened the doors of their sales office onsite at Eagle Beach on December 24. Interested parties can inspect the project in a spacious plot right next to the gourmet Screaming Eagle restaurant. The project is directed towards discerning clients seeking a top quality property on Aruba in an ideal, tranquil, beachfront location. Prospective property owners will find the Cas Bon people enjoy an exceptional reputation on Aruba for excellence and reliability.

Contact the sales office at 297-732-0000/ 297-287-5300 or visit their website: <http://www.o-eaglebeach.aruba.com>

Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at Palm Beach Plaza



Keshi Yena with plantains, vegetables and pica

-- An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varela Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine:

The Queen's.

They may have moved from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won this charming

eatery their loyal clientele. Varela's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi" - "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena - "Full Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of

chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.)

Seafood main courses of Catch of the Day Aruban Style to shrimp and a mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mussels. Meat dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or



Varela, Luisa and the next generation of chef

Grilled Tenderloin, each including a choice of 2 side dishes; all quite yummy and bargain-priced to boot!

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from an extensive menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't forget to ask about what isn't on the menu!

Marathon man Djokovic relishes major drama, will face Murray in finals.

LONDON (AFP) - Novak Djokovic believes his flair for the dramatic at Grand Slams will prove crucial when it comes to Sunday's Wimbledon final after he battled past Juan Martin del Potro in a record-setting semi-final on Friday.

The world number one clinched an epic 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (7/2), 6-7 (6/8), 6-3 win over the Argentine in the longest Wimbledon semi-final in history to move into his 11th Grand Slam title match.

Over four hours and 43 minutes, Djokovic squandered two match points in the fourth set tiebreak before going on to seal a final clash against either British second seed Andy Mur-

Stanislas Wawrinka in the fourth round at the Australian Open.

He played a five-set final in defeat to Andy Murray in New York last year, two marathons at Roland Garros against Andreas Seppi and Jo-Wilfried Tsonga after starting 2012 with his record 5hr 53min final triumph over Nadal in Australia.

His sequence began at the 2011 US Open in his semi-final win over Roger Federer.

"I've had some epic matches in my career and some long five setters. Especially the one that stands out is the final with Nadal at the Australian Open last year. It went for six hours," said Djokovic.



Serbia's Novak Djokovic (L) embraces Argentina's Juan Martin Del Potro (R) after Djokovic's victory in their men's 5 hours long singles semi-final match

Djokovic has now defeated Del Potro nine times in 12 matches, but the big Argentine said he had played his best match on a grass court.

"I was so close. I played really good tennis for four and a half hours but he hits the ball so

points, it was my best tennis on grass but against the world number one it's not enough.

The 24-year-old said he had also enjoyed the experience of playing a close friend and the two men embraced warmly at the end.



Argentina's Juan Martin Del Potro dives

ray, the runner-up last year, or Polish 24th seeded Jerzy Janowicz.

The top-seeded Serb, bidding for a seventh Grand Slam crown, fired 22 aces and 80 winners against the luckless Del Potro, the 2009 US Open champion.

Friday's win represented the seventh time in his last eight majors that he has taken centre stage in a marathon five-set match.

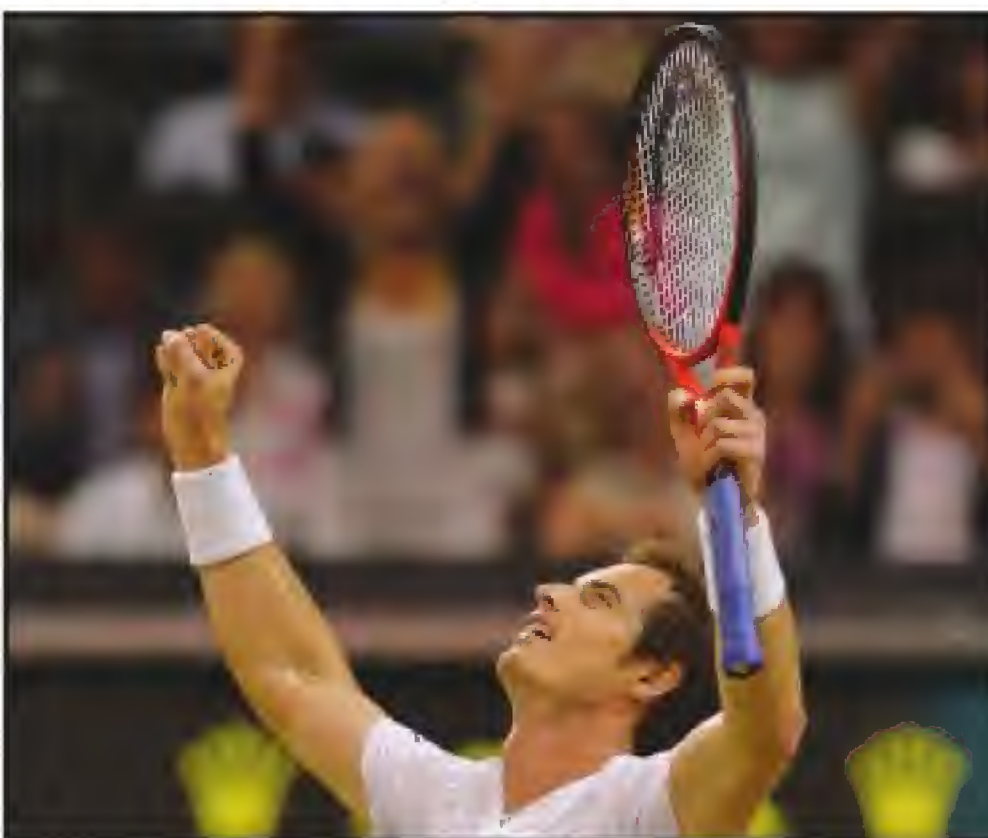
At the French Open semi-final last month, he lost in five sets to Rafael Nadal while also being pushed all the way by

"But I have the experience of playing long matches, and I know that I have been pushed to the limit today, as my opponent was also.

"It was one of the most thrilling matches that I have ever played, especially here in Wimbledon."

Djokovic said he was disappointed that he hadn't settled the match with Del Potro in the fourth set when he had match points.

"I lost a long match in French Open just a few weeks ago. You can't win all the matches," added Djokovic.



Britain's Andy Murray celebrates beating Poland's Jerzy Janowicz

hard. I am sad because I lost," said Del Potro.

"It was just a couple of

Meanwhile Andy Murray set up a Wimbledon final showdown with Novak Djokovic as the world number two beat Polish 24th seed Jerzy Janowicz 6-7 (2/7), 6-4, 6-4, 6-3 in a bad-tempered last four clash on Friday.

Murray will play world number one Djokovic, the 2011 champion, on Sunday in his fourth Grand Slam final meeting with the Serb.

SPORTS

Golf: Paraguay's Zanotti takes surprise lead at French Open

VERSAILLES (AFP) - Paraguay's Fabrizio Zanotti was the surprise leader of the French Open after a sparkling three-under-par 68 on Friday lifted the 30-year-old into a one-shot lead after two rounds of dramatic action at Le Golf National.

The South American, who is looking for his first ever victory on the European Tour, racked up four birdies before holding his nerve down the stretch to stand clear of the field heading into the weekend's final two rounds.

Danish duo Thomas Bjorn and Soren Kjeldsen, along with South African Richard Sterne, are joint second on five-under. But overnight leader Anders Hansen, also of Denmark, slumped down the leaderboard with a horrid round of 78.

He finished the day on two over but eight shots back of Zanotti.

In a crowded leaderboard, Northern Ireland's Graeme McDowell, English duo Simon Dyson and Graeme Storm, as well as Scotland's Stephen Gallacher were all locked on four under and two shots adrift.

Spaniard Eduardo De La Riva had the day's joint best round with a four-under par 67 that lifted him into a tie on three-under with Scotland's Scott Jamieson and Australian Richard Greene who nailed an eagle on the third hole during a round that was stained by a bogey at the last.

Former world number one Luke Donald and Ryder Cup teammate Ian Poulter finished the day on two over after respective rounds of par 71 and 73.

Meanwhile world number five Matt Kuchar survived the cut despite shooting a four-over-par 75.

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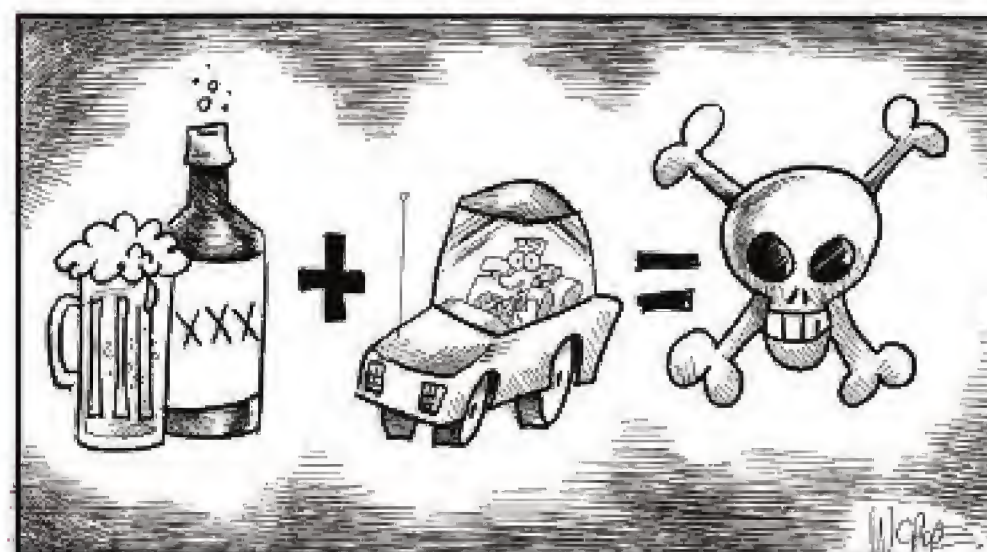
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Formula One: Home support boosts Vettel, Rosberg

NURBURGRING (AFP) - Sebastian Vettel bounced back to his best, but with a warning on Friday afternoon when he led the way for Red Bull at the Nurburgring in second free practice ahead of Sunday's German Grand Prix.

On a warm and dry afternoon in the Eifel, the defending triple world champion and current series leader clocked a best lap in one minute and 30.416 seconds to boost his fans' hopes that he can claim his first win on home soil in Sunday's 60-laps race.

This put him two-tenths of a second clear of nearest rival and fellow-German Nico Rosberg of Mercedes as the pair made the most of home sup-



port to emerge as likely leading contenders for pole position on Saturday.

Australian Mark Webber was third quickest in the second Red Bull, close behind Rosberg but ahead of Frenchman Romain Grosjean and his Lotus team-mate Finn Kimi Raikkonen, the 2007 champion.

Two-time champion Spaniard Fernando Alonso was

sixth quickest in the afternoon, ahead of Ferrari team-mate Brazilian Felipe Massa, after failing to clock a lap in the morning.

Briton Lewis Hamilton, the 2008 champion, was eighth fastest in the afternoon, after dominating morning practice, ahead of former team-mate and compatriot 2009 champion Jenson Button of McLaren.

Tour de France



ALBI (AFP) - A combination of pictures made yesterday in Albi, shows overall leader's yellow jersey, South Africa's Daryl Impey; France's Thomas Voeckler raising his bike as riders block the road after falling; the pack riding behind yellow flowers; and best sprinter's green jersey, Slovakia's Peter Sagan, celebrating after crossing the finish line at the end of the 205.5 km seventh stage of the 100th edition of the Tour de France cycling race between Montpellier and Albi, southwestern France.

Free-agent roundup:



On Monday's Free-agent roundup: Chris Paul is staying in L.A., Andrea Bargnani heading to New York, Tiago Splitter and Manu Ginobili returning to San Antonio, three-team deals that landed Eric Bledsoe in Phoenix and Tyreke Evans in New Orleans, and Al Jefferson getting a big payday in Charlotte — but there have been a handful of smaller deals agreed to over the past couple of days that are worth considering, too. ("Agreed to," but not completed — no deal can be made official until after the July 10 end of the league's annual moratorium on trades and signings.) The New York Knicks and free-agent guard Pablo Prigioni agreed to terms on Thursday, as first reported by Jared Zwerling of ESPN New York. According to Al Iannazzone of Newsday, the 36-year-old Prigioni will receive a three-year deal worth just under \$6 million (photo: Chris Paul)

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MLB Standings

American League

East	W	L	Pct	GB
BOSTON	53	34	.609	—
BALTIMORE	48	38	.558	4.5
YANKEES	46	39	.541	6.0
TAMPA	46	40	.535	6.5
TORONTO	41	44	.482	11.0

Central

	W	L	Pct	GB
DETROIT	46	38	.548	—
CLEVELAND	45	40	.529	1.5
KANSAS	40	42	.488	5.0
MINNESOTA	36	46	.439	9.0
CHICAGO	34	48	.415	11.0

West

	W	L	Pct	GB
OAKLAND	50	36	.581	—
TEXAS	49	36	.576	0.5
LA ANGELES	41	44	.482	8.5
SEATTLE	37	48	.435	12.5
HOUSTON	31	55	.360	16.5

National League

East	W	L	Pct	GB
ATLANTA	49	36	.576	—
WASHINGTON	43	42	.506	6.0
PHILADELPHIA	41	45	.477	8.5
NY METS	35	47	.427	12.5
MIAMI	32	52	.381	16.5

Central

	W	L	Pct	GB
PITTSBURGH	52	32	.619	-
ST. LOUIS	50	34	.595	2.0
CINCINNATI	49	36	.576	3.5
CHICAGO	36	47	.434	15.5
MILWAUKEE	34	50	.405	18.0

West

West	W	L	Pct	GB
ARIZONA	44	41	.518	—
COLORADO	42	44	.488	2.5
SAN FRANCISCO	39	45	.464	4.5
SAN DIEGO	40	46	.465	4.5
DODGERS	40	44	.476	3.5

x-Clinched Playoff Spot; y-Division Champ

Yachting: Italian team to boycott America's Cup opening

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - The skipper of Luna Rossa on Friday said the Italian team would boycott the America's Cup race until a jury rules on its protest against a last-minute change to a rudder design rule.

Max Sirena said Luna Rossa will not take to the San Francisco Bay on Sunday for the first scheduled race, against Emirates Team New Zealand, if the international jury is still pondering objections filed by both teams.

"The main reason we are not racing on Sunday is a principle concept; not to accept what is being done," Sirena said at a press conference with other skippers and regatta director Iain Murray.

But Sirena went on to say that Luna Rossa was at the 34th America's Cup to race and would likely take part in the event even if the jury doesn't back his team's protest in a decision expected to be handed down on Monday.

"If you don't turn up, you don't win races, and you don't get points, and you don't win the America's Cup," Murray said when asked about the boycott.

Team New Zealand and Luna Rossa, scheduled to duel in the first race of the Louis Vuitton Cup, contend that Murray exceeded his authority in some of the 37 safety rule proposals in the wake of British sailor Andrew Simpson's death in May.

"Whether Luna Rossa decides to race or not, we will be out there," New Zealand team skipper Dean Barker promised.

If Luna Rossa doesn't show up Sunday, the New Zealand team will need just to sail the course to win a point in the battle for the right to take on defenders Oracle Team USA in the America's Cup finals in September.

Simpson died in a training accident in which the AC72 catamaran of Swedish syndicate Artemis Racing capsized, and Murray has held firm that rule changes aimed at preventing another such tragedy were within his authority.

Artemis will miss early rounds of racing as it recovers from the accident.

A huge support team is working "night and day" at the Artemis base in a former US Naval Air Station on the island city of Alameda across the bay from San Francisco, according to skipper Iain Percy.

"Unfortunately, it is going to be a couple of weeks yet," Percy said of when his team

would be able to take part in Vuitton Cup racing.

The focus of the stand-off between Murray and protesting teams is a design rule change to catamaran elevators, a part of the rudder that affects how high boats can rise out of the water and, by extension, how fast they can go.

Rule changes focused on boat design fall under the category of 'class' changes that can't be implemented without unanimous agreement from competitors, Luna Rossa argued.

Rivals have complained that Oracle was handed an advantage by the change because it has trained with the new design.

To complicate matters further, the catamaran that Artemis is hurrying to build to join the racing is being made with a rudder designed to meet the changed rule and will be out of compliance if Luna Rossa gets its way.

"This is not politics, we just feel that it is unfair," Sirena said of the protest muddying waters for an event that has navigated turbulence for months.

Sailing legend and Oracle team member Russell Coutts depicted the Luna Rossa threat to boycott the opening challenge race as a ploy intended to put pressure on the jury.



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